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Joe Pickett

HOUSE RESEARCH ORGANIZATION

daily floor report

Wednesday, January 11, 2017
85th Legislature, Number 2
The House convenes at 10 a.m.

The House today is expected to consider HR 3 by Geren, the proposed Housekeeping Resolution for the 85th Legislature. A summary of HR 3 as filed begins on page 1.

The House also is expected to consider HR 4 by Smithee, the proposed House Rules for the 85th Legislature. The proposed changes to last session's rules are summarized beginning on page 3.

The Sunset Advisory Commission is scheduled to meet today starting at noon, or 30 minutes after adjournment of the House and Senate, in Capitol Extension Room E1.030 for its final vote on recommendations to the 85th Legislature on agencies under Sunset review.



Alma Allen
Chairman
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PROPOSED HOUSEKEEPING RESOLUTION CHANGES

The administration and operation of the House of Representatives are governed primarily by the Housekeeping Resolution adopted for the two-year term of each legislature. HR 3 by Geren, the proposed Housekeeping Resolution for the 85th Legislature (2017-18), would increase the salary cap for most House member and committee staff and would maintain the monthly operating account for House member offices while in regular or special session at the amount authorized for the 84th Legislature. The proposed resolution also would update various dates to reflect references to the 85th Legislature.

Monthly Operating Accounts

The monthly allocation to members' operating accounts would remain at \$14,250 for months that fall wholly or partially within the 2017 regular session or a special legislative session (sec. 5.04(a), p. 21). HR 3 also would maintain at \$13,500 the standard amount allocated to a member's operating account for months other than those within a regular or special session.

	81st Leg. 2009	82nd Leg. 2011	83rd Leg. 2013	84th Leg. 2015	Proposed 85th Leg. 2017
Monthly member operating account:	\$13,250 (regular session)	\$11,925 (regular or special session)	\$13,250 (regular or special session)	\$14,250 (regular or special session)	\$14,250 (regular or special session)
	\$12,250 (interim, with possible adjustment up to \$13,250)	\$11,500 (interim, with possible adjustment up to \$11,925)	\$11,925 (interim)	\$13,500 (interim)	\$13,500 (interim)
Member and committee employee salary cap:	\$4,200	\$4,200	\$5,000	\$5,151	\$5,280

The maximum amount of unspent funds that a member could carry forward from one fiscal year to the next would remain at \$20,000 (sec. 5.05(b), p. 23).

The monthly salary cap for most member and committee employees would increase from \$5,151 to \$5,280 (sec.4.07(d), p. 16). As in the 84th Legislature, the amount of the salary cap could be adjusted by the Committee on House Administration to account for any salary increase provided to all state employees. Also as before, a member could exempt one employee on the member's own staff from the salary cap, and a committee chair could exempt one employee on the committee staff from the cap.

PROPOSED HOUSE RULES CHANGES

HR 4 by Smithee contains proposed changes in the House Rules for the 85th Legislature. The resolution, as filed, would amend the 84th Legislature's rules on distributing bill analyses to committee members and including them in committee reports, as well as rules on posting notices of formal meetings about some Senate bills. It also would eliminate a requirement that the committee coordinator examine the feasibility of video testimony. No changes would be made in committee jurisdiction or membership.

Committee membership, jurisdiction (Rule 3, pp 23-52)

Under HR 4, there would be no changes in the number of committees, the number of members on those committees, or the jurisdiction of the committees. There would be 32 substantive committees and six procedural committees. The proposed resolution would make technical corrections to conform with changes to the official names of state agencies or entities that have occurred during the past several sessions.

Requesting and distributing bill analyses (Rule 4, pp. 56-57, 75)

Bill authors no longer would be authorized to request a bill analysis from the Texas Legislative Council (TLC) for distribution to committee members when a bill is laid out for the first time in committee or for a committee report. Committees could continue to make these requests.

HR 4 would maintain a requirement that when a bill first comes before a committee, committee staff give bill authors copies of bill analyses at the earliest possible opportunity and at least by the time the bill is laid out before the committee. It would require committee chairs to continue to provide bill analyses for committee reports to bill authors when the analyses were complete. The proposed resolution would eliminate a requirement that the House sponsor of a Senate bill receive a copy of the bill analysis to reflect the fact that under the rules a sponsor is not named until the Senate bill is reported from committee.

Committee staff no longer would be required to distribute non-TLC drafted bill analyses to authors at least 48 hours before a measure is laid out in committee for the first time.

Posting notice for formal meetings for some Senate bills (Rule 4, p. 58-59)

HR 4 would extend to formal meetings a current rule that affects posting requirements for public hearings at which certain Senate bills are considered. Currently, certain posting requirements are not applied to public hearings on Senate bills that are substantially the same as a House bill that previously was the subject of a duly posted public hearing by the committee.

Video testimony (Rule 4, p. 67)

HR 4 would eliminate a requirement that the committee coordinator examine the feasibility of video testimony and establish procedures to permit individuals to submit testimony through an online video.